

**From:** "jolaine" <jolaine@wildblue.net>  
**To:** <madams@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**CC:** "G. R. Hensley" <g.r.hensley@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** 5/26/2009 9:33 AM  
**Subject:** Impaired Water Ways Central Coast - Cuyama River

Attn: Ms. Mary Adams  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Comments for the 2008 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments

Dear Ms. Adams:

I am a long time older retired resident of the Cuyama Valley, and a member of Save Cuyama Valley, a group of concerned citizens. We are committed to preserving the Cuyama Valley's land, air and water. I became actively involved in these pursuits in becoming aware of the harmful impacts of corporate farming and gravel mines in the Cuyama River and its tributaries. This involvement has given me cause to do extensive research into the basin's overdraft and the pollution to the Cuyama River, wilderness areas, air, ground water and open land.

This is a unique valley of wilderness - open spaces - and farming. There are not many areas like it, remaining in California. This is why it is imperative that the Cuyama Valley water basin and the Cuyama River be included in all plans and discussions of impaired waterways. These plans should also address the extremely critical ongoing overdraft, of the Cuyama water basin. Several large corporate farming operations are experiencing the growing issues of Cuyama Valley's constant lowering water levels. Many land owners and residents of Cuyama as well. This is harmfully impacting to all!

The over pumping of Cuyama's groundwater, by corporate farming, plus growing impacts of climate change, and the lack of a basin plan for the Cuyama Valley, exacerbate the Cuyama Basin's, worsening overdraft. This shall cause continuing and profound impacts to corporate farming and Cuyama's landowners and residents. Its high quality of life shall be greatly disrupted and ultimately, destroyed.

The Counties of: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Ventura also depend on the Cuyama River and its water basin, in vast and significantly connective ways.

Maintaining Cuyama River's viability and flow helps in the sustenance of California's Central Coast's waters and beaches. Shoreline erosion is becoming a severe and costly expense to all of California and its waters.

Pollution from the waters that flow into the ocean are of grave concern for all. Sand and gravel mines; expanded corporate farming water demands [and farming fertilizers and chemicals]; as well as dams and reservoirs [Twitchell Reservoir]; are causing severe and extreme impairments to the Cuyama River and the Cuyama Valley Water Basin. This does not bode well for the future of Cuyama; its adjacent counties; or for California's coastal waters and its shorelines!

It seems that the Cuyama Valley and the Cuyama River are not often included in its adjacent counties' or California's collective conscience of care and considerations for its water or land.

The value and awareness of connectivity, shared through a sustained quantity and quality of pure clean water, land and air is of common concern and necessary in maintaining a higher quality of life. Its preservation requires a response of care from all involved.

I am grateful to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for their considerations of my

comments, made on behalf of Cuyama Valley and its valuable connectivities of water!

Most Sincerely,

Jolaine Gorrilla, Cuyama Resident and Organizing Committee, Save Cuyama Valley